

102b → 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

ABS plastic

just as seamless 7 - plastic is as anything else
→ bottom surface in hollow no flat expansive bottom support

annulus
5, 8, 10

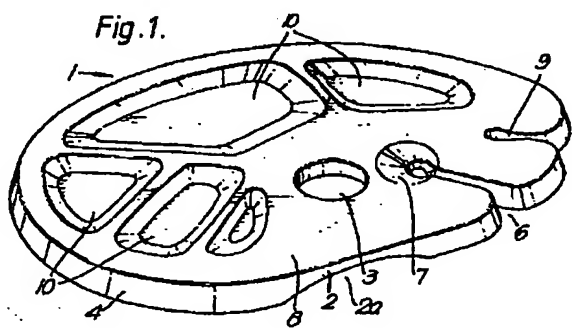
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(54) Plate or tray

(57) A plate or tray (1) having an edge portion (2) providing a finger grip and a thumb receiving aperture (3) spaced from the edge portion (2) so that the plate or tray (1) can be held by inserting the thumb through the aperture (3) from beneath and gripping the edge portion (2) with the fingers so that the plate or tray (1) is supported on the forearm. The plate or tray (1) has a depending flange (4) around the periphery thereof for maintaining the underside of the plate or tray (1) spaced above a surface on which the plate or tray (1) is placed. The flange (4) is locally relieved (2a) in the region of the edge portion (2) to facilitate gripping the edge portion (2) with the fingers.

1. Cavities for food 10
2. passing through shape preformed in the edge for manual handling 2, 2a
3. housings 6, 7, 9



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Fig. 1.

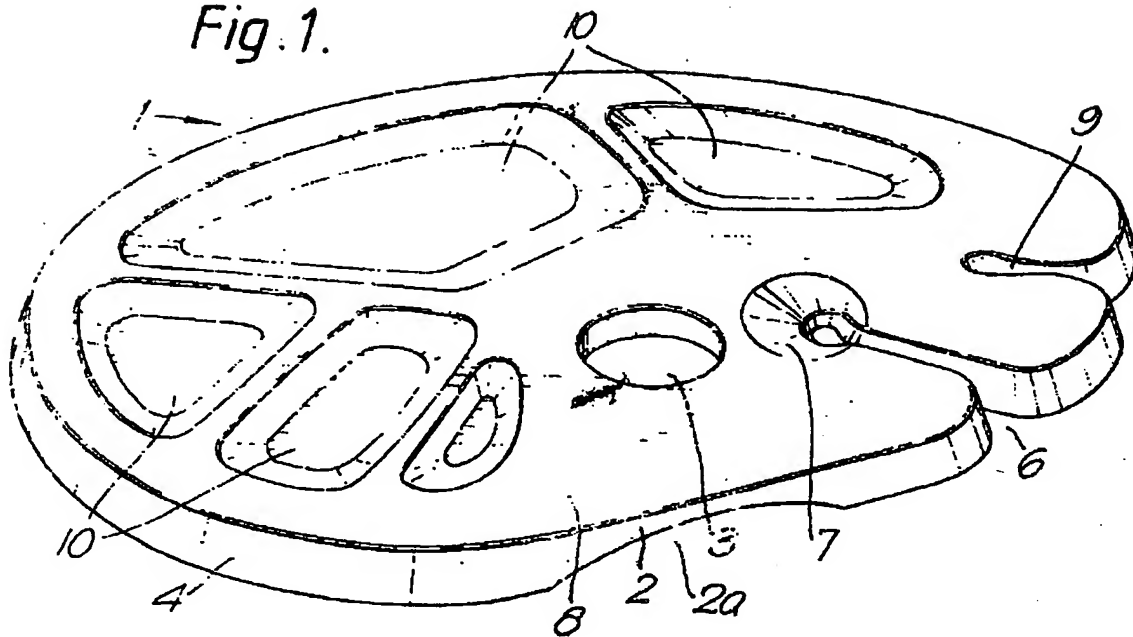
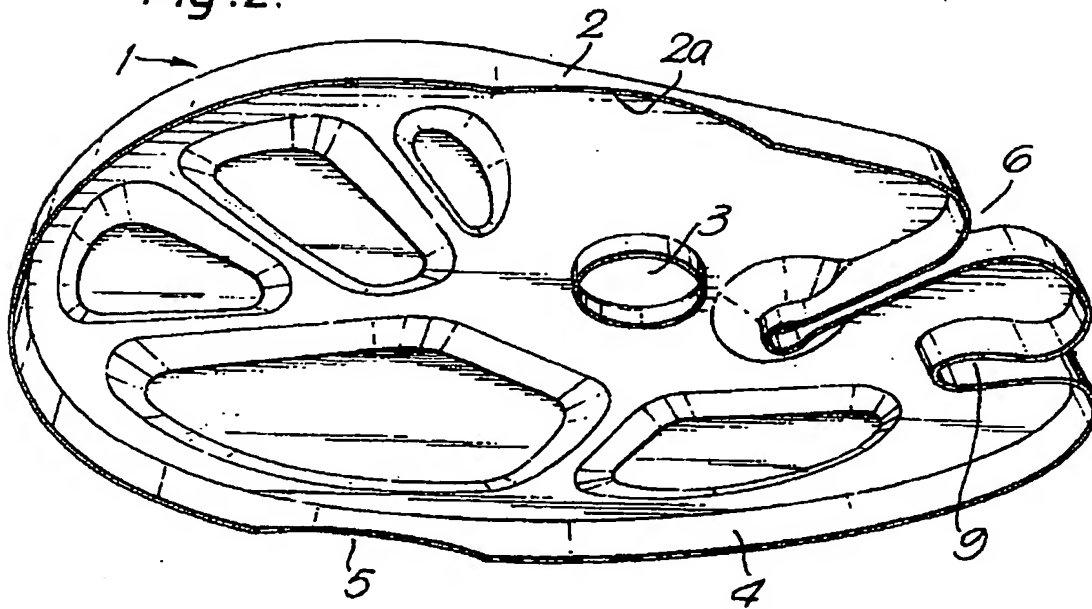


Fig. 2.



SPECIFICATION

Plate or tray

5 This invention relates to plates or trays.

A common problem at buffets, parties, barbecues and the like is that of eating and drinking whilst standing since one frequently finds oneself with a plate of food in one hand and a drink in the other and no convenient surface on which to place either so that one is left without a free hand with which to eat.

The present invention has as its object to provide a plate or tray which will alleviate this problem and which, according to a preferred embodiment, enables both food and a drink to be held in one hand, so freeing the other hand.

The present invention provides a plate or tray substantially in the form of an artist's palette, comprising:

- 20 (a) an edge portion providing a finger grip,
- (b) a thumb receiving aperture so spaced from said edge portion that when the plate or tray is held by inserting the thumb of one hand through said aperture from beneath and gripping said edge
- 25 portion with the fingers the plate or tray will be supported on the forearm,
- (c) a depending flange around the periphery of the plate or tray such that when the plate or tray is placed on a horizontal surface the underside of the plate or
- 30 tray will be spaced above said surface, and
- (d) said depending flange being locally relieved in the region of said edge portion to facilitate the gripping of the edge portion with the fingers.

Preferably a portion of the depending flange opposite said edge portion is locally relieved to receive the forearm of a user, so providing some lateral support for the plate or tray when in use.

According to a preferred embodiment, a slot extends inwardly from periphery of the plate or tray and terminates in a recess in the upper surface of the plate or tray, whereby a stemmed wine glass can be supported by inserting the stem of the wine glass in said slot and locating the bowl of the glass in the recess. Said slot may open adjacent said edge portion so that the wine glass will be supported on a part of the plate or tray furthest from the user when the plate or tray is supported on the forearm as aforesaid, so facilitating the insertion and removal of a wine glass into and from said slot.

50 The plate or tray may have at least one slot extending inwardly from the periphery thereof and/or at least one aperture therein, said at least one slot and/or said at least one aperture serving for the reception of a napkin or serviette and/or an item of cutlery.

The plate or tray may have compartments or recesses in the upper surface thereof for receiving food and/or condiments.

The plate or tray may be formed, e.g., moulded from a suitable synthetic plastics material such as acrylonitrilebutadienestyrene. Alternatively the plate or tray could be formed from other suitable material such as

metal, wood or even a suitable paper or cardboard material.

65 The invention will be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of a plate or tray according to the present invention, and

70 Figure 2 is an underneath perspective view of the plate or tray of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings it will be seen that the plate or tray 1 is substantially in the form of an artist's palette and has an edge portion 2 providing a finger grip and a thumb receiving aperture 3 so spaced from the edge portion 2 that when the plate or tray 1 is held by inserting the thumb of one hand through the aperture 3 from beneath so that the thumb points towards the edge portion 2 and gripping the edge portion 2 with the fingers the plate or tray 1 will be supported on the forearm of the user.

The plate or tray 1 has a depending flange 4 around the periphery thereof which is such that when the plate or tray is placed on a horizontal surface the underside of the plate or tray will be spaced above said surface. This prevents damage to polished surfaces from the heat of hot food on the plate or tray. The depending flange 4 is locally relieved at 2a in the region of the edge portion 2 to facilitate the gripping of the edge portion 2. The depending flange 4 is also locally relieved as shown at 5 opposite the edge portion 2 to receive the forearm of a user, so providing some lateral support for the plate or tray 1 when it is supported on the forearm as aforesaid.

95 A slot 6 extends inwardly of the plate or tray 1 from the periphery thereof adjacent the edge portion 2, the slot 6 terminating in a recess 7 in the upper surface 8 of the plate or tray 1. The slot 6 and recess 7 serve for the support of a stemmed wine glass the stem of which can be inserted into the slot 6 and the bowl of which can be received in the recess 7. At least one further slot 9 may extend inwardly from the periphery of the plate or tray 1 for the reception of a napkin or serviette or an item of cutlery. Likewise one or more apertures (not shown) may be provided in the plate or tray 1 for the reception of items of cutlery or other items.

The upper surface of the plate or tray 1 is formed with compartments or recesses 10 for food, condiments or the like. The depth of the compartments or recesses 10 is less than the height of the flange 4 so that the underside of the bottoms of the compartments or recesses 10 will be spaced above any horizontal surface on which the plate or tray 1 is placed.

115 The plate or tray 1 is preferably formed, e.g., moulded, from a suitable synthetic plastics material such as acrylonitrilebutadienestyrene, although it could be formed from other suitable materials if desired.

120 The flange 4 preferably extends both downwardly and outwardly when the plate or tray 1 is in its position of use and the sides of the recesses 10 inclined as shown so that the plate or tray 1 is stackable with like plates or trays 1.

The drawing(s) originally filed was (were) informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.

CLAIMS

1. A plate or tray substantially in the form of an artist's palette, comprising:
 - (a) an edge portion providing a finger grip,
 - 5 (b) a thumb receiving aperture so spaced from said edge portion that when the plate or tray is held by inserting the thumb of one hand through said aperture from beneath and gripping said edge portion with the fingers the plate or tray will be supported on the forearm,
 - 10 (c) a depending flange around the periphery of the plate or tray such that when the plate or tray is placed on a horizontal surface the underside of the plate or tray will be spaced above said surface, and
 - 15 (d) said depending flange being locally relieved in the region of said edge portion to facilitate the gripping of the edge portion with the fingers.
2. A plate or tray according to Claim 1, wherein a portion of the depending flange opposite said edge portion is locally relieved to receive the forearm of a user.
3. A plate or tray according to Claim 1 or 2, having a slot extending inwardly from the periphery thereof and terminating in a recess in the upper surface of the plate or tray, whereby a stemmed wine glass can be supported by inserting the stem of the wine glass in said slot and locating the bowl of the glass in said recess.
4. A plate or tray according to Claim 3, wherein said slot opens adjacent said edge portion.
5. A plate or tray according to any one of the preceding claims, having at least one slot extending inwardly from the periphery thereof for receiving a napkin or serviette or an item of cutlery.
- 35 6. A plate or tray according to any one of the preceding claims, having compartments or recesses in the upper surface thereof for receiving food and/or condiments.
7. A plate or tray according to any one of the preceding claims, having at least one aperture therein for receiving an item of cutlery.
8. A plate or tray according to any one of the preceding claims, when moulded from synthetic plastics material.
- 45 9. A plate or tray according to Claim 8, when formed from acrylonitrilebutadienestyrene plastics material.
10. A plate or tray substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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